THE SECOND DAY.

20th February 1914.

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Friday, the 20th February 1914.

The Chief Secretary to Government announced that the Members of the Kottayam Division met the previous day under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, and elected, by a majority of votes, Mr. K. G. Parameswara Menon, B. A., B. L., and the Members of the Padmanabhapuram Division also met under the presidency their Dewan Peishkar and elected Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A., B. L., for the vacant seats in the Legislative Council, and that His Highness the Maha Raja would, in due course, appoint them as Members of the Legislative Council.

The consideration of the subjects, as per the list distributed to the Members on the previous day, was begun.

I.—MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(1) Land Revenue.

1. The desirability of permitting the Sreepandaravagai ryots to pay the paddy tax due by them in money at the prevailing market rate.

Mr. A. Aiyamperumal Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) said that the tax due to the *Sree Pandaravagai* was fixed in kind and was being paid as such. In many instances, the ryots were willing to pay, in the first instance, the money value of the tax due, calculated at the market rate, but the authorities would not accept it until demand notices were issued ; and then the value of such notices were also required to be paid. The Member requested that arrangements might be made to send down lists of *nirak* (market) rates to the *pakuthi* cutcherries on the 5th of every kist month and that such of the ryots as were willing be permitted to pay in money, at the market rates obtaining at the time, the tax due, without a demand notice. He contended that demand notices should be issued and the fees recovered only in the case of those ryots who failed to pay the tax before the close of the kist month.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar will be requested to enquire into the matter, consult the leading ryots, and report.

2. The commutation of the paddy tax into money in the proverthies of Attingal and Edakode.

Mr. Kanakku Nilakantan Parameswaran (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) said that the subject was one that had been represented by him at the Fourth Session of the Assembly and the reply then given was that, during the minority of Her Highness the Senior Rani, the Government were not prepared to make substantial changes in the collection of Her Highness' revenue which were likely to reduce her income. The Member said that, though the Government were in the position of a trustee, they practically administered the revenue for the Sreepadom Palace, and all the revenue laws of the Sirkar were equally applicable to the Sreepadom lands. Further, with the abolition, in 1081, of the land-tax in kind in the case of the Sirkar lands, one-fourth of the paddy tax on the Sreepadom lands was also commuted into money at the new rate of 11 chs. per para. The Member felt sure that it was effected through the kind intervention of the Government. At present, out of the entire tax, one-fourth was payable at the old *vilatharam* of 6 chs. per para and another one-fourth at

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